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MUKHERJEE, T.K., A.K. HAZRA & A.K. GHOSH (1995): The Mantid Fauna of India (Insecta-Mantodea). *Oriental Ins.* 29: 185-358.

20. RECENT RECORD OF *CREOBROTER APICALIS* SAUSSURE
(INSECTA : MANTODEA) FROM PUNE, MAHARASHTRA AND KUMTA, KARNATAKA

(With one plate)

During 1997-98, we came across a very colourful mantis in the areas around Pune (Mulshi, Aundh Road, Kondhawa). We collected 3 specimens (all three females) from Pune and one in Santegully near Kumta (Karnataka). The taxonomic characters of the insect are given below.

Head triangular. Vertex with a small spine above ocelli. Frontal sclerite transverse, bicarinate and with central depressed area. Frontal sclerite with small, lateral wing-like expansions. Eyes large, conical, bulging beyond the circumference of the head. Pronotum with dentate lateral edge and prominent coxal dilation. Forecoxae with 6-7 small spines; forefemur with 4 external, 4 discoidal and 13 internal spines, all the spines brown-tipped. Femoral brush brownish, claw groove proximal. Foretibia with 15 external and 15 internal brown-tipped spines; of these, external spines bent at base and closely set; mid and hind femora each with a small lateral apical lobe. Forewings grass green, costal area translucent. Oblique oval, yellow patch bordered laterally by two black semicircular rings in the central part of each forewing. This so called 'eye mark' encloses 1, 2 or 3 black dots. Basal yellow patch on each forewing. Hindwings with characteristic colour pattern, costal area translucent yellow, base pink or purple, discoidal and anal areas brown with hyaline cross veins.

Body colourful. Head mostly greenish-yellow, vertex dark green. Pronotum dark green with a complete faint yellow border. All legs yellowish with olive-green bands. Meso- and metathoracic segments dorsally brown. First four or five abdominal segments pink in the mid-dorsal area, rest of the segments brownish (Plate 1, Fig. 1). Ventrally, thorax and abdomen uniformly greenish-yellow.

Measurements (in mm) of a Mulshi specimen: female, 21.vii.1998, coll. N. Rane, Body length 33.0; forewing 28, hind wing 25; prozona/metazona 3/4.5; forecoxa 8; forefemur 10.2; foretibia 5.3. The other two mantid specimens are very similar in morphometry.

With the help of a recent report on the fauna of Mantodea (Mukherjee *et al.* 1995) we could easily identify this interesting mantis as a species of *Creobroter*, on the following grounds. Family Hymenopodidae (external spines of the foretibiae numerous, bent and very closely set; forewing with eye-like mark); Subfamily Hymenopodinae (frontal sclerite with two lateral wing-like expansions and central depression; eyes bulging beyond the circumference of head); Genus *Creobroter* (ventral lobes of mid and hind femora occupy distal position only).

Specific determination of this insect was based on personal communication with Dr. T.K.

Mukherjee who was provided morphometric data and colour photographs. The species has been determined as *Creobroter apicalis* as the eye-mark is placed in the middle of the forewing.

There are, in all, 6 species presently under the genus *Creobroter* in India. *C. apicalis* has been reported earlier from Ambenali in Maharashtra (Mukherjee and Hazra 1983). The species is also known from Karnataka (Mukherjee *et al.* 1995) and our collection from Santegully, Kumta, (14.ix.1998 N. Rane) becomes an additional report, but from a definite locality in Karnataka State. All the specimens in our collection are females. Mukherjee *et al.* (1995) also record the examination of 23 females and of one male specimen.

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MUKHERJEE, T.K., A.K. HAZRA & A.K. GHOSH (1995): The mantid fauna of India (Insecta: Mantodea). *Oriental Ins.* 29: 185-358.

21. *SISYPHUS LONGIPES* (OLIVER) (COLEOPTERA : SCARABAEIDAE : SCARABAEINAE) — A NEW RECORD FOR ANDAMAN ISLANDS

The Andamans and the Nicobars, situated 1,200 km off the Indian mainland in the Bay of Bengal between 6° and 14° N and 91° and 94° E, though rich in insect fauna with several endemic species, dung beetles are very poorly represented on these islands. Only six species having been reported, namely *Catharsius molossus* L., *Copris spinator* Har., *Onthophagus cervus* F., *O. orientalis* Har., *O. unifasciatus* (Schall.), and *Paraphytus andamanus* Arrow (Arrow 1931, Veenakumari and Prashanth Mohanraj 1994). None of these species, however, belong to the dung roller group. We report the occurrence of *Sisyphus longipes* (Oliver), a dung roller of the

Family Sisyphini from the Andaman Islands. A single specimen was caught in Garacharma, S. Andaman on January 25, 1998.

S. longipes has a wide distribution from Sri Lanka through central and eastern India to Burma (= Myanmar) (Arrow 1931). Many elements of the Andaman fauna (eg. a large percentage of the avifauna) are presumed to have arrived on these islands across the much narrower stretches of water that existed between Burma and these islands, as compared to any of the other neighbouring continental areas, during the Pleistocene sea level lowering (Ripley and Beehler 1989). If *S. longipes* had arrived on these